

FROM THESE PAGES

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A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences

Morehead State University

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In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

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by

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Accepted by the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, Morehead State University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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Director of Thesis

Master's Committee:

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4.12.00  
Date

FROM THESE PAGES

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Morehead State University, 2000

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FROM THESE PAGES is a compilation of poetry that I have written during my tenure as a Morehead State University student. The poems in this compilation are those which express themes of personal relationships and survival against the odds. These two themes are intertwined in some poems yet appear individually in others. While working out life's problems through my poems, I have discovered that life gives me many wonderful opportunities to create a poem. The challenge is first to recognize those moments and second to use the often exasperating English language to create a poem as intense as the moment. Perhaps my strongest conclusion is that I have only begun my expression of myself. Poetry is the avenue that leads from my heart

to my soul. With FROM THESE PAGES, my journey is just beginning. I look forward to following it through.

Accepted by:

Henry Ehlert, Chair  
Shane Allen  
Robert L. Hunt

## **The Meeting**

Alone on a deserted highway  
Wandering to and fro  
Searching the Kentucky skyline  
Do I stay or do I go?

Abandoned by all who know me  
Not one friend nearby  
Alone, beaten, battered  
Why me, oh why?

Dusk turns into darkness  
Dim light of the moon  
Lost, bewildered, frazzled  
The end must come . . . soon.

A noise from the bushes  
I turn to look and see  
Confused, dazed, uncertain  
Someone's here with me.

Laughter from out of nowhere  
I sense someone near  
Mystified, startled, amazed  
A new emotion . . . fear.

A touch upon my skin  
A breath upon my cheek  
Chilly, icy, frozen  
Not finding what I seek.

Enclosed in the iron grip  
A hold fiercely tight  
Strangled, delayed, trapped  
Without energy to fight.

Gasping in futile despair  
Slowly I give in  
Fearless, calm, tranquil  
My life comes to an end.

## **The River**

The river runs wild and free  
So many wonders there are to see.  
The water sparkles like crystal.  
The rocks glitter like gold.  
Wildflowers grow on the bank  
And rock gently in the breeze.  
The river travels through the valley,  
Weaving a gentle path  
Through the towering mountain.  
A place to swim, fish, or rest -  
But also a place to respect  
With wonder and awe.

## Time

As I look out the window  
Upon the world outside,  
Many things enter my mind  
As I watch time slip by.

Where does time go?  
How swiftly it speeds by!  
Yesterday is gone forever  
Tomorrow will never come.

We always have our memories  
These we can make good or bad  
How we lead our life is up to us  
Do we make it happy or sad?

We're always in a rush  
This and that we must do  
But as we speed along in such haste  
Time marches swiftly by too.

It never hurts to slow down  
If just for a little while  
Stop and smell the roses  
The surest way to produce a smile.

If we're not careful  
Our lives will soon be gone  
And what will we have to remember  
As we slip away to another home?

Enjoy life and live to the fullest  
Do what you must do  
But don't forget to take the time  
To do something special for you.

### **Hidden Treasure**

A pearl may lose its luster  
A river may run dry  
A diamond may refuse to sparkle  
Or a star may fall from the sky  
Gold may lose its value  
While silver may lose its shine  
But anyone may look the whole world over  
And a better mother, one will never find.  
A love that will last forever  
Her children are her treasure  
While things of this earth may pass away  
Her love can never be measured.



## **Dancing Stars**

The stars shine in the skies above  
Night after night, they look down  
Surveying Earth, lost and without love  
Smile after smile becoming a frown.

Alone in the darkness of night  
With only the stars to know  
Bitterness and envy find delight  
While seeds of loneliness begin to grow.

Intrepid night becomes a new day  
Frowns fade into translucent smiles  
Pretending they are there to stay  
To endure the day's lonely miles.

The day passes by to an abrupt end  
Stars again twinkle and shine  
Lonely hearts put to bed without mend,  
Lying that all is well and fine.

The skies filled with tremendous joy  
While stars galore play and dance  
And the people below continue to toy  
With life as if trapped in a hypnotist's trance.

## **Greed**

The oldest countries polluted  
By oceans of dollars,  
Sultry and armored,  
Torn open by sharks of  
Sour silence.

The purple struggles churning,  
Compressing the solitaire man  
Deprived of sanity  
Given to the master of  
Omniscient opportunity.

A corruptible conscience lacking  
Serene honesty,  
Betraying lustful greed  
Finalized into lies of  
Majestic morality.

The bitter tenants demand  
Compromises of injustice  
While cruel hands  
Know exposed worlds of  
Thoughtful terror.

## **Living**

Kindling a silent flame,  
Echoing a screaming whisper,  
Drawing a blank portrait,  
Traveling a transparent landscape,  
Borrowing a weathered dollar,  
Learning a false truth,  
Yearning for a perilous haven,  
Living in a tumultuous calm.

## **Cascades**

A fragile soul treads alone  
As a gentle beacon echoes laughter  
To a life caressing hope.  
Never-ending cheerfulness  
Gallant, extra-ordinaire,  
Clever, crimson cascades crawl  
To tender yet timid trials  
Seeking solace from sinister suns.  
Life, liberty, love  
Together to build a bond  
For all to caress.

### **Attempt to Escape**

The morning sunlight rose across  
The bed and asked the delighted afternoon  
Lights to wait a while before  
Trespassing into sacred territory  
As tingling nerves began to desire  
Personal touches beyond nothing  
Keeping calm, searching for  
Delicious rewards that will  
Interfere with summer droughts  
Before the pounding headache  
Beating at the door to my skull  
Screamed frantically to get out  
By compressing my tormented thoughts  
Into raw pristine packages  
Left inside as the afternoon began  
Its trespass into the morning  
Leaving me trapped where I was.

## **Myriad**

Darkness ignored expectant desire  
Placed against pristine eyes,  
Becoming ice-cold meteors of  
Brandishing beauty to pierce  
The welcoming winter sun.

A parallel entity overpowering an  
Obscure mediocrity beyond  
The fantasy realm that possesses  
Illustrations to intoxicate radiance  
While the myriads excuse euphoria  
Unparalleled of God.

## **Despair**

Alkaline trenches despair  
Of the dry sphere called Earth  
To increase global disease  
With constant acid  
Enveloping pleasure and  
Smothering global appreciation  
Of peaceful unity  
Facing an increase of  
Contemplative despair.

## **Survival**

Wrinkled woman - briefly glistens,  
A dream moment in a harried existence,  
Pristine fountains flowing with sweet vinegar,  
Beaten smiles stretch across weathered faces,  
Struggles within churn gallantly for superiority,  
Purity falls dejectedly into mass hysteria,  
Windblown man finds his way to her  
Joining hands to laugh together.



## Pawns

Compliant pawns participating in a game called life,  
Practiced laughter sounding false and rehearsed,  
Avoided rules written to stifle ultimate creativity,  
Allowed restraint to control premeditated decisions that  
Defied fruition by refusing to surrender yet  
Found honor in a principled corner of the board,  
Gained recognition while developing a unique  
personality,  
Believed truth comes only after careless mistakes,  
Caused rules to become complacent and  
Made pawns desire therapeutic laughter which  
Brought restraint to a chilling end.

### **Without Conscience**

Profitable thoughts churning without conscience  
Seeking to increase the delicate balance  
That doesn't exist.

Poor king without profits stands betrayed  
By unyielding circumstance depriving him  
Of splendid treasures.

Fighting to survive amid white demons  
Whose only desire is to preserve  
What never belongs to them.

Profitable thoughts churning without conscience  
Lingering just above the shadow that stalks  
An unwitting prey.

## **You Gave All**

You gave all you could give  
No one could give more  
Because of that  
I'm here and . . .  
You're gone.

You were called to serve  
You were proud to go  
Maybe a little scared  
But prepared to do . . .  
What you must.

High hopes and big dreams  
You carried with you  
To the faraway land  
Across the sea . . .  
Leaving me.

Then the telegram arrived  
Your hopes and dreams  
Were gone with you  
Left over there . . .  
With mine.

Now, twenty years later  
I stand here with tears  
Remembering  
You did your job . . .  
You gave it all.

The glimmer from the sun  
Reflects into my eyes  
I see your face  
Smiling at me . . .  
Behind your name  
On the Wall.

## Palette

Regretting red misery  
Under translucent shadows of loneliness,  
Initiating purple waves  
On harboring shores of freedom,  
Forgetting gray desires  
Above fatigued clouds of immortality,  
Provoking blue madness  
Beside sleeping lambs of ignorance,  
Dreaming black images  
Through solitary abysses of knowledge,  
Wagering green envy  
Into unknown pathways of hypocrisy,  
Swimming amber horizons  
For delicate children of earth,  
Following violet selfishness  
Into distant alleys of despair,  
Shouting orange commands  
Amid rising dawns of fear,  
Visiting navy skies  
Beyond frozen valleys of asphalt,  
Conquering brown anger  
Through adjacent galaxies of discord,  
Swallowing ebony motive  
Into irrational fires of reason,  
Weeping peach tears  
Among open bridges of prejudice,  
Allowing silver blizzards  
Between faceless mountains of serenity,  
Remembering gold laughter  
From endless eras of majesty,  
Treading auburn sunsets  
From tranquil mirrors of creation,  
Transforming scarlet ideals  
Over colorless realms of possibility,  
Searching canary transitions  
Below tender membranes of change,  
Finding white hope  
Off glass walls of opportunity.

## **Desire**

Staring into the imperceptible distance,  
Sensing something that's not there.  
Following a trodden path through oblivion,  
Leading those who choose to follow,  
Knowing not where they're led,  
Asking for guidance . . . Seeking,  
Running around vacant obstacles,  
Trying to reach a forbidden destination,  
Gloating with pride, after the fact,  
Winning the coveted prize . . .  
What belongs to another.

**It is . . .**

A thundering mountain of lustful thorns  
A blazing hurricane of impregnable trust  
A towering wave of epidemic fear  
A beckoning prison of fortified comfort  
A tantalizing earthquake of honorable desire  
A brawling inferno of incorruptible passion  
A tingling victory of hallowed hearts.

## Someplace to Be

Driving in a straight line  
Veering neither left nor right  
I have someplace to go.  
Where?  
I don't know.  
Someplace.

A fork in the road?  
That's just great!  
If I don't move now,  
I'll . . .  
Which way?  
Right or left?  
Someplace is waiting for me.

Maybe I'll slow down  
Then I won't have to turn  
But that won't work either,  
I wouldn't get anywhere  
And I've got someplace to be.

Okay, I can do this.  
I will choose a path -  
Either the right or the left.  
Which?  
I'll take the one with  
The briars and brambles.  
I should stick to the familiar.  
The path where I began  
Was filled with brambles.  
Besides, I've got four wheel drive.

Here I go - no turning back -  
Down the brambled lane.  
To where?  
I still don't know.  
But I've got someplace to be.

## **Tomorrow Never Comes**

Loneliness knots in my stomach  
A hollow feeling inside  
Yearning for tomorrows  
That never come.

Anxious for a new day to begin  
Laughing aloud at life's new jokes  
Waiting for the tomorrow  
That never comes.

Depressed and alone in the cold world  
Carelessly treading life's path alone  
Praying for the tomorrow  
That never comes.

Afraid to trust and afraid to love  
A loneliness possesses my soul  
Sighing with relief for a tomorrow  
That never comes.



## The Atlantic

The waves of the Atlantic  
Lap hungrily  
Around my bare feet.  
The tide travels back  
Out to sea.  
I walk slowly, deliberately,  
Down the smooth,  
Wet sand.  
My footprints leave a  
Weaving path  
Dancing across the shore.  
A glimmer of gold  
Beckons to me.  
I bend to retrieve the  
Treasure delivered  
By the hapless ocean.

The waves of the Atlantic  
Lap hungrily  
Around my bare feet.  
The tide travels back  
Out to sea.  
I continue my stroll  
Along the delightful,  
Intrepid beach.  
My footprints leave a  
Fresh path  
Meandering across the shore.  
Treasure upon glorious  
Treasure appears.  
I fill my pockets with  
The bountiful gift  
From the generous ocean.

The waves of the Atlantic  
Lap hungrily  
Around my bare feet.

## **The Geyser**

The listless diploma hung wearily  
On the fading sheetrock wall  
Staring blankly at the man  
Who is trying to murder her -  
The one the golden ring asphyxiates  
While it greedily possesses her finger.  
The disgruntled bear within her  
Fiercely growls when her delicate paw is  
Pricked by the thorn left by that man.  
Drops of blood sprinkle onto the  
Aging carpet as it screams in pain  
When reckless footsteps amble the  
Worn path, from room to room.  
An ocean of tears spring forth  
From an unyielding geyser of emotions,  
Drowning the aching, stained couch.  
Unleashed fires of rage demand  
The release of her once fragile soul.  
Now the diploma hangs freely  
On the freshly painted sheetrock wall  
Beaming proudly at the woman  
Who is finding her life.

## **You Say You Love Me**

You say you love me,  
Yet you're never there  
For me - when I need  
You to be.

You say you love me,  
Yet you put me down  
Whenever - things don't  
Go your way.

You say you love me,  
Yet our children never  
See you - without shedding  
Tears of . . .

You say you love me,  
Yet torture you impart  
To me - the way you  
Make me feel.

You say you love me,  
Yet love is an act not  
A word - you show me not  
What I need.

You say you love me,  
Yet you expect me to  
Believe - lucky for me  
You love me.

## **Bouquets**

A rose in radiant red  
Becoming a bountiful bouquet  
When placed among other perky petals  
Individual blossoms begin to blend  
And lose their lingering loneliness  
Among other fragrant, floral flowers.  
Colors collected to campaign  
For fervent feelings to flourish -  
A leisurely love lasting eternally.

## **Lilacs**

Lilacs blowing in the warm spring breeze  
The scent flowing softly through the air,  
To land and gently touch my face.

Winds begin to blow stronger -  
The scent slaps me as I walk by.

Stronger still grows the wind,  
Forcing the scent to envelop me  
With arms of steel.

Trapped . . .

Where do I go from here?  
A gust of wind carries me away  
With the scent still gripping me  
In its steel vice.

## Life

Life is a beautiful flower  
Waiting patiently to bloom,  
To blossom and to flourish  
If only given the room.

Life is a blazing fire  
Waiting patiently to ignite,  
To engulf and to prevail  
Following day's new light.

Life is a roaring sea  
Waiting patiently for tide,  
For entry and for exit  
Not wanting to hide.

Life is an adventurous book  
Waiting patiently to write,  
To edit and to read  
Someone else to enlight.

A flower, a fire, a sea, a book  
Waiting patiently day by day  
To be lived but once by you  
Looking for something worthy to say.

## Shadows

I gaze upon the Sun  
I see the fiery Glare  
The Light - so bright -  
Shadows roaming - everywhere.

The Darkness comes - swiftly -  
And with sudden surprise,  
The Day - Dark as night -  
Shadows gone to rest.

As quickly as before  
The Light returns - to Me -  
My eyes search - frantically -  
For where the Shadows -

## **A Grand Designer**

As I gaze around the earth  
In wonderment and awe  
I question how anyone  
Could doubt Your existence.  
The universe so vast and  
Filled with amazing creatures  
Could not have been an accident.  
Too much calculation and deliberation  
Had to go into its preparation.  
Each organism upon the earth  
From the feeblest to the most robust  
Is an invention perfectly unique.  
The survival methods we have  
Are too complicated to be  
Considered an accidental occurrence.  
Only an omniscient grand designer  
Could have arranged such features.  
To inspect any segment of  
Our humble and dependent lives,  
How can anyone doubt  
The Creator's existence?



### **The Road I Walk**

The road I walk is long and narrow,  
Many times my feet become weary.  
When I begin to stumble and falter,  
I pause to take a deep breath.  
I say a small prayer  
Asking for some guidance.  
As relief and contentment settle upon me,  
I begin my journey once again because  
The road I walk is long and narrow.

### **That Old Gray Haired Man**

In my mind I still can see,  
That old gray haired man  
As he sat in his favorite chair.  
He would sit there the whole day through  
And contemplate life's many wonders.  
His overalls were faded,  
His shirt was flannel made,  
While his heart was pure gold.  
A can of tobacco kept by his side  
To roll a "Prince Albert" cigarette.  
When he tired of making  
A beautiful cedar picture frame  
Then to his jigsaw puzzles he would turn.  
After a while, he would take  
A cedar stick, to sit and whittle.  
His blue eyes would ignite  
When his grandchildren came  
Or when he told a story from long ago.  
The man I speak of has gone away  
To live in a brighter home.  
I loved him and I miss him  
But I have no fear.  
That old gray haired man  
Who sat like a king in his favorite chair  
Will meet me again.  
Of this, I am sure.